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For Immediate Release
June 18, 2004

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Sen. Hardiman welcomes Mexican President Fox to Michigan

LANSING – Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, welcomed Mexican President Vicente Fox to Michigan along with other state leaders at a private reception Thursday in Lansing.

“I feel privileged to have met the leader of Mexico,” Hardiman said. “I’m also pleased to see President Fox renewing and strengthening ties with Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans here in Michigan. As a land of immigrants, America and Michigan is renewed by people coming into our communities. Grand Rapids in particular has a strong Mexican American population that I’m proud to represent.”

According to the 2000 Census, Grand Rapids has a Hispanic population of almost 26,000, or more than 13 percent. People of Mexican descent account for about 16,600 of that 26,000.

During his trip to the United States, Fox toured a number of Midwestern states, pitching his country as a good place for businesses to invest in.

Mexico is Michigan’s second-largest trading partner after Canada. The value of the trade totals \$16.5 billion, according to some estimates.

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